

# EF 501 Engineer in Society

## Assignment 1

E Number - E/19/129

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1. Ceylon was ruled by three European Nations. They were:

Ceylon underwent successive European dominations throughout and after the 16th century. The Portuguese held control from 1505 to 1658, followed by the Dutch from 1658 to 1796. Ultimately, the British took over from 1796 to 1948. The era of colonization concluded in 1948 when the country achieved independence from British rule.

2. What are the Personal laws in Sri Lanka?

The legal framework in Sri Lanka includes specific personal laws for distinct communities:

1. Kandyan Law pertains to Sinhala Buddhists residing in Kandyan provinces.
2. Tesavalamai applies to Tamil residents in Jaffna.
3. Muslim Law is relevant to the entire Muslim population across Sri Lanka.

3. What is territorial law?

The law that extends to all individuals residing within the geographical boundaries, regardless of their nationality or citizenship. Laws that are relevant to the residents of a specific region, without regard to their caste or religion. Territorial laws are absent in Sri Lanka.

4. What is personal law?

Personal law pertains to the legal regulations governing individual affairs, which are tailored to specific religious or cultural contexts.

5. Define Ordinances, Laws and Acts.

- Ordinances are legislations enacted by the State Council (prior to 1948), and they bear the designation of ordinances. For instance, the Maternity Benefit Ordinance falls under this category.

- Acts encompass laws passed by the Parliament, both during the period from 1948 to 1972 and subsequent to 1978. The EPF Act is an example of an Act.
- Laws are statutes established by the National State Assembly (1972 – 1978) and are denoted as Laws. The Land Reform Law is a representative instance.

6. Explain the Words Paternity leave and Maternity leave.

Paternity leave and maternity leave are provisions that allow parents to take time off work to look after their recently born or adopted child. Maternity leave involves a leave duration given to a mother both before and after delivering her child, while paternity leave is extended to fathers for the same purpose.

7. What are the sources of law?

- Customary law
- Status law
- RDL, English law
- Legislation

8. What is binding precedent?

Binding precedent refers to the practice of adhering to judgments established by superior courts. Lower courts are obliged to conform to the precedents established by the rulings of higher courts.

9. What are case laws?

Case laws encompass the verdicts issued by courts, particularly the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal, which establish legal precedents and integrate into the legal system.

10. What are Law Reports?

Law reports are compilations of appellate court judgments that are published as books. They consist of decisions rendered by higher courts and serve as legal references. Two examples are the New Law Report (prior to 1978) and the Sri Lanka Law Report (from 1978 onwards).

11. What is statute law?

Statute law pertains to laws that are enacted by the parliament.

12. What is Private law?

Private law refers to the legal framework that governs the interactions and connections between individuals and entities. Legal action can be taken by private citizens.

13. What are the sources of law?

- Customary law
- Status law
- RDL, English law
- Legislation

14. Explain Civil law and criminal law.

- Civil Law – This involves legal proceedings initiated by private individuals, which is why it is often termed private law. For instance, it can encompass cases where an individual seeks reparation for a suffered injury.

- Criminal Law – In cases of property damage or physical harm, the affected party has the option to pursue legal action to secure compensation through civil law. It's important to note that both civil and criminal law can proceed concurrently. For instance, in a motor vehicle accident, the police may bring criminal charges against the driver while a separate civil action might seek compensation for damages.

15. What is the Courts structure in Sri Lanka?

1. Supreme Court
2. Court of Appeal
3. High Court
4. District Court
5. Magistrates' court
6. Primary courts

16. What is the Highest Court in Sri Lanka?

Supreme court

17. What was the Highest Court of Appeal in Ceylon?

Judicial Committee of Privy Council

18. What is a Constitution of a Country?

A country's constitution outlines the arrangement of governmental components and the distribution of authority among various political entities. It encompasses regulations concerning the exercise of power, its bearers, and those subjected to it within the governing nation. For this reason, it is also referred to as the paramount law of the nation.

19. When did Ceylon become Sri Lanka?

On May 22, 1972.